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It Pays to Be in Goodwin's Graces

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By Drew Pearson

President Goulart of Brazil doesn't know it, but youth around the White House has waged quite a battle over him.

The youth is 30-year-old Richard Goodwin, President Kennedy's Assistant Secretary of State for the American Republics, who is the President's closest adviser on Latin-American Affairs.

Goodwin is a bright kid with no Latin-American background. He got his start in Government investigating discokey payola and TV quiz shows for the Harris Committee, then zoomed into the good graces of Sen. John F. Kennedy, helped elect him, and is now molding the destinies of an entire continent.

He is energetic, sincere, devoted to his chief in the White House and to better Pan American relations. But like many young people suddenly elevated to high places, he has the arrogance of youth. Recently, President Goulart of Brazil has been the subject of a backstage hassle between Dick Goodwin and the veteran leader of the Senate, Mike Mansfield of Montana.

Mansfield wrote a letter to the State Department the other day saying that the Sen-



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ate was bogged down with joint sessions of Congress to honor distinguished visitors and he would have to have fewer of them if he was to pass any Kennedy legislation. He did not say so, but these joint sessions also cut down on Democratic filibustering and on Senate dawdling during Republican Lincoln's Birthday speeches.

At any rate, there are 26 presidents, kings, queens and other heads of state visiting in Washington this year, and Mansfield didn't want 28 joint sessions of Congress. The State Department agreed, and a compromise was worked out whereby only heads of state on state missions would address joint sessions. Heads of state merely receiving an "executive" invitation, namely a personal invite from the President, would not address Congress.

However, this cut out President Goulart of Brazil. He is arriving today as an executive guest, not a state guest.

Immediately this aroused the indignant opposition of the Latin-American executive closest to Mr. Kennedy, Dick Goodwin. He got over Senator Mansfield's head direct to the President and got Mansfield reversed.

President Goulart, he argued—with some justice—has been skeptical about the U. S. A. in the past and, having received a royal welcome in Moscow, he must be accorded the honor of addressing a joint session of Congress.

Brazil was too important to the United States for Goulart to be slighted.

A compromise plan was proposed to let Goulart, once a Brazilian Senator, address the Senate rather than a joint session. But in the end Dick Goodwin won out. President Goulart is addressing a joint session.

Another Brazilian

Another Brazilian visitor also figured in the controversial life of Goodwin—namely, Carlos Lacerda, hard-hitting Brazilian newspaper publisher and Governor of Guanabara.

Lacerda's Rio de Janeiro newspaper Tribune da Imprensa has been vigorously anti-Communist and pro-American. He has been a consistent friend of the U. S. A. and could be the next president of Brazil. Yet when he came to Washington recently he was not invited to the White House.

He was invited to address the Overseas Press Club in New York, where Dick Goodwin heard him and was asked by American friends to make an appointment with Mr. Kennedy. Dick was noncommittal.

Later at a Brazilian embassy reception, Pet Nehemkis of RCA Whirlpool urged newspapermen: "This man may be the next president of Brazil, and he hasn't yet been invited to see Kennedy."

Newspapermen finally arranged the appointment. So operates Dick Goodwin.

On the whole he is a stimulating influence in an agency which in the past has been more partial to cobwebs than stimulants. If you are in his graces you get a joint session of Congress. If you are not in his graces you don't even get into the White House. It pays to get along with young Richard.

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